

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY RELEASES 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Medicine Hat – The City of Medicine Hat today released its 2007 Annual Report.

Achieving a successful balance of municipal services and investment in its Energy Division is a major highlight of the City of Medicine Hat's 2007 operating year.

Releasing City Council's 2007 Annual Report, former Chief Administrative Officer Gerry Labas, said he was proud of the progress made by Administration in achieving Council's strategic direction. The Annual Report covers activities from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2007. The City produced a separate Financial Report, which was also presented to Council today.

Highlights of the 2007 Annual Report are:

- Assets grew by \$162 million to \$1,506 million with total equity of \$1,149 million.
- Excess operating revenues over expenditures were \$157 million on total operating revenues of \$363 million.
- Capital investment was \$240 million in electric, roads, sidewalks, storm sewers in new subdivisions and natural gas (including a \$135 million acquisition).
- Cash investment portfolio earned 4.06 per cent exceeding the benchmark by 20 per cent.
- All five Divisions in Municipal Services ended the year under spent resulting in a positive variance of \$2.1 million.
- The Energy Division achieved its financial objectives resulting in a year end profit before the dividend payment of \$71.3 million.
- Processed building permit values in excess of \$146 million, equal to a 24 per cent increase over 2006.
- Land and Properties developed 414 lots (R-1, R-2 and R-3) and sold 387, leaving an inventory of 98 lots (71 lot carry over from 2006) at 2007 year end.
- Police planned several impaired driving initiatives, which resulted in a 34 per cent increase in charges and no alcohol related driving deaths.
- 911 Communications became the first in the world to achieve tri-accreditation in Police, Fire and Medical protocols.
- Updated the City website to provide more timely and accurate information to customers.
- Launched the HAT Smart Environmental Initiatives program to educate residents on saving energy and conserving water.
- City of Medicine Hat won the 2007 National Communities in Bloom Award
- Approved Smart Growth principles for future developments.
- Developed performance measures and targets for the community's environmental priorities. Revised the employee intranet to improve information delivery to staff.
- Published an employee newsletter "In the Loop" to connect and share information with employees.
- Once again the City of Medicine Hat was recognized among the TOP 35 Employers in Alberta.

"Our main priority is the well being of Medicine Hat residents by ensuring the appropriate services are delivered in the most effective manner in keeping with our "Mission – to exceed expectations in the value of our services," says Mayor Norm Boucher. "This is an exciting time for our Council and our community. The majority of Council is new and with that comes the opportunity to create new directions. We have new approaches, new ideas and a new vision for Medicine Hat. Over the next three years, City Council has identified new strategies and priorities to expand on the direction of Medicine Hat."

In addition to the 2007 Annual Report, a condensed Report to Residents will be delivered to Medicine Hat residences May 27 to 29. Copies of the 2007 Annual Report and Report to Residents are available on the City's website www.medicinehat.ca or from the City Clerk Office at City Hall.

"It has been a good year and we look forward to working with the new Council in 2008," adds Ron Webb, Acting Chief Administrative Officer. "Council has laid out its plan for 2008-2010 and has asked Administration to provide sustainable utilities, focus on a unified constructive culture, move forward with an effective Transit system and new Event Centre, focus on Land Development, and improve the environment."

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